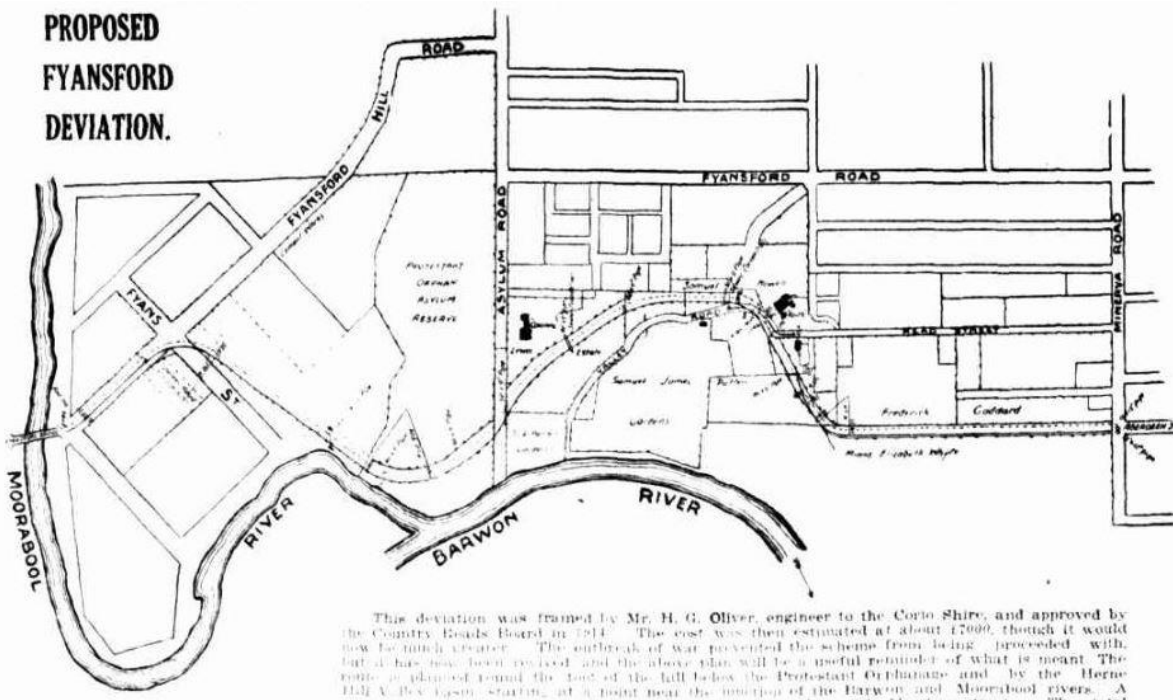


## BYGONE DAYS: Geelong - 100 years ago

### Week 34: August 21st to August 27th, 1923

Two prominent places in Geelong had their beginning in 1923. Deviation Road was about to commence, but had its antecedents many years before.



**Source: Geelong Advertiser Page 2, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 1923**

*"This deviation was framed by Mr H. G. Oliver, engineer to the Corio Shire, and approved by the Country Roads Board in 1914. The cost was then estimated at about £7,000, though it would now be much greater. The outbreak of war prevented the scheme from being proceeded with, but it has now been revived, and the above plan will be a useful reminder of what is meant."*

***Deviation Road today : Photograph Harry Roberts***

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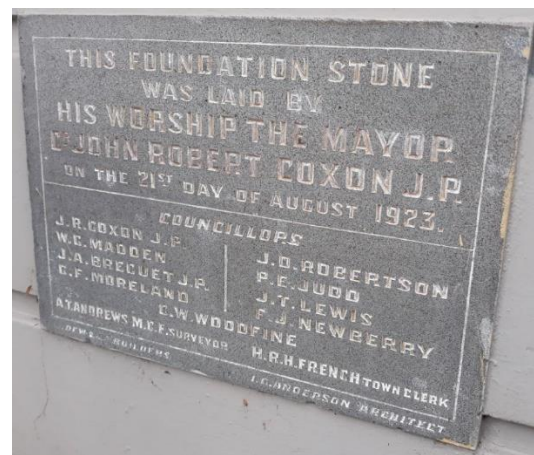
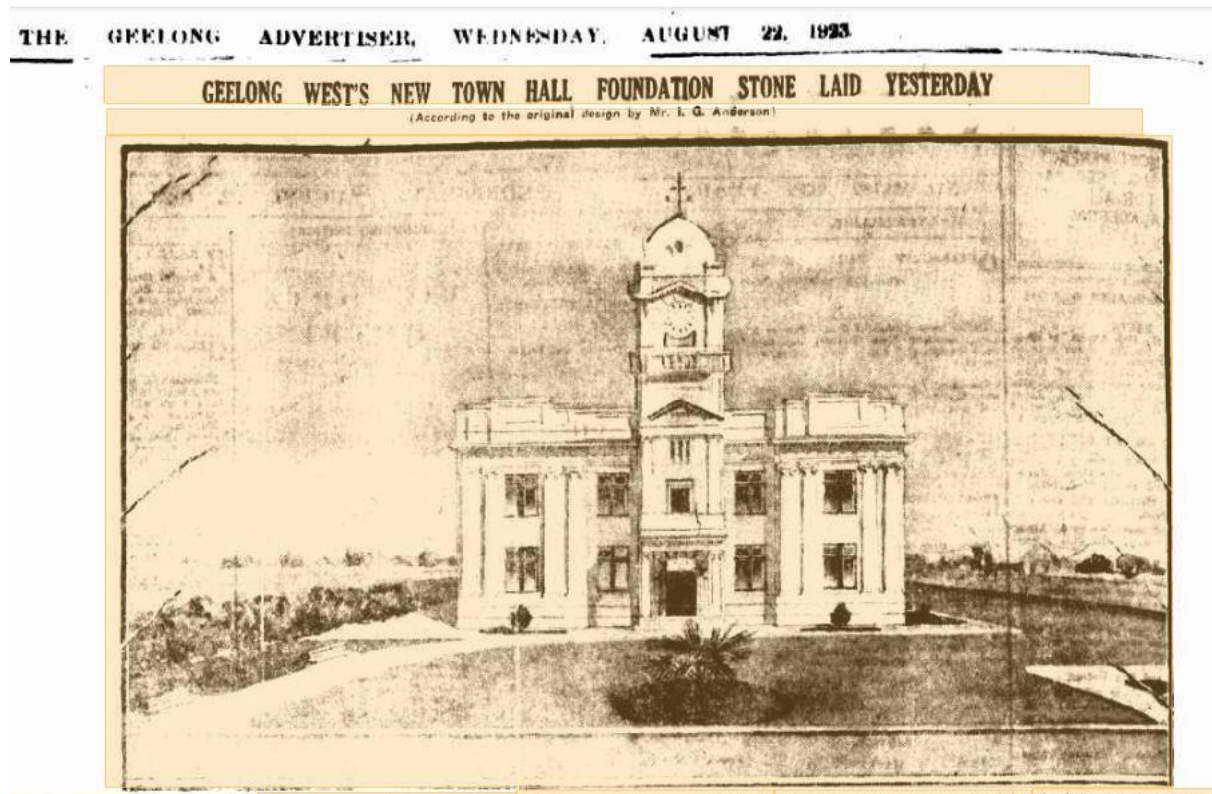
Geelong West's Town Hall had its beginning with the laying of its Foundation Stone. Councillor Coxon, Mayor of Geelong West, performed the ceremony of laying the foundation stone.

He said: *“Even Nature smiles on our enterprize, which shows that we are on the right track.”*

The attending Geelong Advertiser Reporter observed:

*"...there was something of a good omen for the future in the brilliance of the sun as it shone down upon the gathering. An added touch of brightness was added to the scene by the hues of bunting that fluttered in the breeze, suspended on the scaffolding of what promises to be one of the most up-to-date municipal structures in the state."*

Mayor Coxon claimed the occasion to be the second most important performed in Geelong West, The most important was the proclamation of the Borough as a Town and he hoped it wouldn't be long before the next important event would be the proclamation of a Town into a City.



**Town Hall and Foundation stone 2023: Harry Roberts**

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A prisoner escaped from Geelong Gaol by cutting a stone from the window enabling him to squeeze passed the bars and make his escape.

*"The tranquilly of the Geelong gaol was rudely disturbed last evening when a daring and successful escaped was made by a prisoner named Angus Murray. He is undergoing a sentence of 15 years for robbery under arms and an indeterminate sentence. He was placed in his cell as usual last evening and everything appeared to be quiet until about 7:30, when a noise was heard by one of the warders, who at once set about to ascertain its cause. The Governor, Mr Taylor, and the chief warder were*

*summoned and they traced the sound of the fall of a heavy piece of stone which had been cut from the window of the cell occupied by Murray. The removal of the stone allowed him to force himself through the bars. When freed from the cell he at once lowered himself to the by means of a rope made from his blankets and sheets knotted together. The prisoner then made for the outer wall over which he successfully climbed and let himself down by means of the improvised rope. A youth who lives in the vicinity of the gaol saw Murray getting away, and rushed round and gave the alarm at the house of the chief warder in Myers Street."*

Murray had been incarcerated since he robbed the bank in Albert Park in 1917. He was a respectful and cooperative prisoner. Authorities believe he was picked up by a motor car outside he prison.

Gaol authorities had little to say, but it was reported that implements were found in his cell.

*"These included a very fine saw about 9 inches in length, which could be easily concealed; a large keyhole saw, a broken file, an iron poker, and two pieces of steel wire each about two feet long."*

Police and the Inspector-General of Prisons has been notified and an inquiry into how Murray had the objects began.

Two days later it was revealed that clothes had been stolen, to the value of £20, from the house of a saddler in McKillop Street.

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Time has run out for the Town clock discussions concerning its re-positioning with the Market Square redevelopment. At last, the problem of the clock's future was solved. The tower supporting the clock was to be demolished, but the clock saved. The Market Committee of the City Council received a letter from J and N Tait. The letter recommended the clock be situated in a new building facing Malop Street. Councillor Williams moved and Mayor , Alderman King seconded a motion to that effect.

*".. That the clock be erected as a central feature in the Malop Street frontage of Market Square buildings..."*

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Entertainments at the various venues included: *When the Kellys Were Out* at the Regent and West Park Theatres. Regent also showed *The Alarm* and West Park, *Dark Secrets*. Euchre and Dance were offered at St Mary's Hall and Sladen Hall. Batesford Hall just had Euchre. Geelong Theatre was showing *The Scarlet Car* and *Remembrance* and Edna Davis played the xylophone during the matinee. Yarra Street Methodists offered a Grand Concert at the school hall.

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Development of various sports and activities in the Eastern Park made maintenance a big issue.

*" The establishment of golf links, additional bowling greens and croquet lawns and tennis courts and basketball grounds at the High School, have caused a stir among members of the sporting*

*community in the East. The work of the caretaker at Eastern Park greens has become so arduous that it appears necessary to resort to mechanical means for cutting the lawns. Tomorrow another make of petrol-driven lawn cutter will be given a trial."*

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Geelong's Musical Society had been preparing for the next performances of *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast* and *The Death of Minnehaha*.

*"The good results of this period of practice are now becoming apparent. The members are working well, indeed, they are enthusiastic."*

Practice at the Gordon Institute of Technology was progressing well, but...

*"An increase in the number of tenors and basses would be welcomed."*

Time was getting short for new members as the performance was just six weeks away.

#### **References:**

All quotations and advertisements in the weekly accounts are sourced from articles published in the Geelong Advertiser during the designated week, unless acknowledged otherwise. Photographs are acknowledged below or in the text.